

What is claimed:

1. A personal directory system comprising:

a public telephone coupled to a public telephone network, said switch including means for receiving a telephone call from a subscriber requesting a personal directory for the subscriber, means for establishing a voice path to the subscriber, and means for routing the call to a number supplied by a translation server;

a translation sever coupled to the switch and to a computer network and comprising means for receiving a call from the switch requesting a personal directory, means for storing computer network addresses of personal directories of subscribers and means for searching said stored addresses for the address of the personal directory of the subscriber and means for receiving a telephone number from one of the personal directories on the computer network and for transmitting said telephone number to the switch; and

a personal directory server located on the computer network and storing a plurality of personal directories at different addresses on said network, each personal directory comprising a plurality of pairs of names of other subscribers and their corresponding telephone numbers, said plurality of pairs having been selected by the subscriber; means for searching the stored telephone numbers in the personal directory of the subscriber for a desired telephone number and means for transmitting a selected stored number to the translation server.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the computer network is a wide area public network.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the wide area public networks is the World Wide Web of the Internet.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the translation server comprises a text-to-speech module for converting a personal directory entry to a name or telephone number or both.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the translation server comprises a voice recognition module for recognizing an entry in the personal directory when the entry is spoken by a caller.
- 5 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the translation server comprises a caller identification module for verifying the identity of the subscriber.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein the translation server supplies a requested personal directory number to the switch and the switch automatically dials the personal
10 directory number.
8. A method for automatically dialing a telephone number on a public telephone network from a personal directory stored on a computer network comprising the steps of:
- 15 establishing a voice path from a personal directory subscriber to a translation server that holds an address for a personal directory of the subscriber;
searching a memory in the translation sever for a computer network address of the personal directory of the subscriber;
connecting the translation server to said computer network address;
20 storing at the computer network address in a personal directory a plurality of pairs of names of other subscribers and their corresponding telephone numbers;
retrieving from the personal directory a desired telephone number; and
automatically dialing the retrieved number.
- 25 9. The method of claim 8 comprising a further step of accessing the personal directory of the subscriber and modifying the pairs of stored names and telephone numbers.
- 10 10. The method of claim 8 comprising the further step of verifying the identity of a caller before accessing the personal directory of the subscriber.